

SUMMARY OF THE REJECTIONS:

- (1) Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.
- (2) Claims 1, 2, 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by Snell. (U.S. 6,152,435, hereafter "Snell").
- (3) Claims 1, 2, 4, 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by Engibarov. (U.S. 5,060,920, hereafter "Engibarov").
- (4) Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Engibarov in view of McConkey (U.S. 5,074,536, hereafter "McConkey").
- (5) Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Engibarov in view of Takisawa et al. (U.S. 6,383,890 hereafter "Takisawa").

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIONS:

- (6) The drawings were objected to for not showing the detection means recited in Claim 10.
- (7) The specification was objected to for not including section headings.
- (8) The Abstract was objected to.
- (9) Claims 2-8 were also objected to for using the word "characterized."

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RESPONSE TO OBJECTION:

Applicant respectfully proposes corrections to Fig. 3. Formal drawings reflecting the proposed changes shall be filed upon allowance of this application. Support the detection means 20 can be found at page 3, lines 15-20, of the specification. No new matter has been added.

The specification has been amended to add section headings.

The Abstract has also been amended.

Claims 2-8 have been amended to delete the word “characterized” and also to address all the Section 112, second paragraph, points indicated in the Office Action.

RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS:

It is respectfully submitted that neither Snell nor Engibarov anticipate any of the instant claims at least because these references are completely silent with regard to a holder for a cassette for semiconductor material substrates, as now recited in Claim 1. The instant specification discloses at page 1, lines 6-8 that the holder is employed in the manufacture of discrete and integrated semiconductor products.

In contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Snell teaches a multi-diameter vice clamp and collet jaw, and Engibarov teaches a quick change jaw assembly for machining. These references are completely silent with regard to a holder for a cassette for semiconductor material substrates.

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All claims dependent therefrom are believed to be allowable at least for dependency therefrom, and for separate reasons of patentability.

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held in *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628,631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987):

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a):

With regard to rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), in view of the above amendments and comments, these rejection are now believed rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues which may be best resolved by telephone communication, he is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned Attorney at the number listed below.

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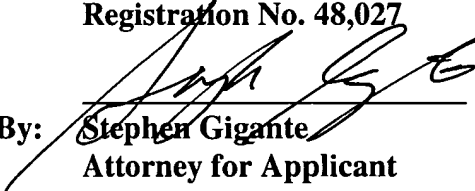
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Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 23, 2002

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Van Der Toorn

SERIAL NO.: 09/882,081

EXAMINER: L. Wilson

FILED: June 15, 2001

ART UNIT: 3723

FOR: HOLDER FOR A SUBSTRATE CASSETTE AND DEVICE PROVIDED
WITH SUCH A HOLDER

VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 30, 2002, the Applicant requests amendment
of the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

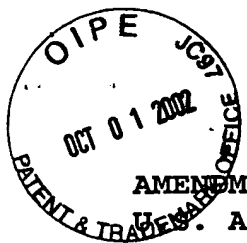
Page 1, before first paragraph insert:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, before second paragraph insert:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Page 1, before fifth paragraph insert:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 3, after fourth complete paragraph insert:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 4, before third paragraph insert:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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IN THE ABSTRACT:

~~The invention relates to a~~ holder (10) is disclosed for a cassette (1) for substrates, (2), ~~comprising~~ The holder includes a base plate (3) on which a guide member (4) provided with at least two guides (5) is secured. The cassette (1) is to be positioned between the guides (5), which enable the cassette (1) to be aligned with respect to the base plate (3), and the side (6) of which facing the base plate (3) tapers inwards and downwards. The application of such a holder (10) in an apparatus for manufacturing semiconductor devices is still hampered as a result of incorrectly positioning the holder (10) in said the apparatus. This can leading to damage to the substrates (2) and a lower yield of the manufacturing process.

~~A holder (10) according to the invention is characterized in that~~ The side (7) of the guide member (4) tapers inwards and upwards. By virtue of this measure ~~structure~~, the cassette (1) can be positioned more accurately and reproducibly into the holder (10). In this way, damage to substrates (2) is avoided and the yield is high. ~~Preferably, the~~ The guide member (4) is ~~may be~~ mirror



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symmetrical and ~~comprises~~ can include, preferably, two separate guide members (4A, 4B), which are mirror symmetrical as well. As a result, the holder (10) can be mounted, adjusted and manufactured in a simple and inexpensive manner.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Amended) A holder (10) for a cassette (1) for semiconductor material substrates (2), comprising a base plate (3) on which a guide member (4) provided with at least two guides (5) is secured, which cassette (1) can be arranged between the guides (5), which enable the cassette (1) to be aligned with respect to the base plate (3), and the a first side of the guide member (6) of which is facing away from the base plate (3) is embodied so as to taper inwards, characterized wherein in that the a second side (7) of the guide member (4) facing the base plate (3) is also embodied so as to taper inwards.

2. (Amended) AThe holder as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the second side (7) facing the base plate (3) is mirror symmetrical with respect to the first side (6) facing away from the base plate (3).

3. (Amended) AThe holder as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~, viewed in cross-section, the guides (5) demonstrate a trapezoidal, inwardly directed profile (8).

4. (Amended) AThe holder as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the guide member (4) and the base plate (3) are provided with corresponding openings (9A, 9B) having the shape of an elongated slot (9A, 9B) the longitudinal directions of which are mutually

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substantially perpendicular and by means of which the guide member (4) is detachably secured to the base plate (3) by means of bolts (11) and nuts (12).

5. (Amended) ~~A~~The holder as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the base plate (3) is graduated (13) at ~~the~~ a location of two mutually perpendicular outer sides of the guide member (4).

6. (Amended) ~~A~~The holder as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the base plate (3), the bolts (11) and the nuts (12) are made of aluminum.

7. (Amended) ~~A~~The holder as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the guide member (4) comprises two mirror-symmetrical guide members (4A, 4B), which each form at least one ~~(5B, 5E)~~ guide, and preferably three guides ~~((5A, 5B, 5C), (5D, 5E, 5F))~~, which each adjoins a single side of the cassette (1).

8. (Amended) ~~A~~The holder as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the guide member (4) is made from a material having a low coefficient of friction, ~~for example a~~ high-molecular polyethene.

9. (Amended) ~~A~~The device for the manufacture of semiconductor products in semiconductor substrates, provided with ~~a~~ the holder (10) as claimed in claim 1.

10. (Amended) A device including the holder as claimed in claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the device is provided with detection means, which signal that the cassette (1) for the substrates (2) is present in the holder (10).